Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Original). A polypeptide selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(b) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the following (i) to (iv):

(i) a polypeptide which is a conservative substitution variant or a naturally occurring allelic variant of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9,

(ii) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence having a sequence homology of 75% or more, as compared to a full length amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9;

(iii) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9 are deleted, substituted or added; and

(iv) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or by a complement thereof,

wherein the polypeptide possesses a phospholipase A_2 activity.

2 (Original). The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide of human.

3 (Original). The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

4 (Original). A nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

5 (Original). The nucleic acid according to claim 4, wherein the encoded polypeptide is a polypeptide of human.

6 (Original). A nucleic acid selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8; or

(b) a nucleic acid selected from the following (I) or (II):

(I) a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or a complement thereof; or

(II) a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence having a sequence homology of 70% or more, as compared to a full length translation region sequence in the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8,

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide possessing a phospholipase A_2 activity.

7 (Original). The nucleic acid according to claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid is a nucleic acid of a human.

8 (Currently Amended). A nucleic acid selected from the following (I) or (II):

(I) a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or a complement thereof; or

(II) a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence having a sequence homology of 70% or more, as compared to a full length translation region sequence in the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8,

wherein the nucleic acid is usable for the following (A) or(B):

(A) detection of expression or presence of a gene comprising the nucleic acid of ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 6; or

(B) change of expression of a gene comprising the nucleic acid of ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 6.

9 (Currently Amended). The nucleic acid according to ~~any of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid is an isolated nucleic acid.

10 (Currently Amended). A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid of ~~any one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4.

11 (Original). The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the recombinant vector is an expression vector.

12 (Original). A host cell into which the recombinant vector of claim 11 is introduced.

13 (Original). A method for producing a recombinant polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

1) culturing a host cell into which the recombinant vector of claim 11 is introduced, to give a culture; and

2) collecting a polypeptide of a phospholipase A_2 encoded on the recombinant vector from the culture obtained in the above step 1).

14 (Currently Amended). An antibody capable of recognizing the polypeptide of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

15 (Currently Amended). A method for characterizing, identifying or screening a therapeutic agent for an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising contacting a phospholipase A_2 comprising ~~the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 3~~ the polypeptide of claim 1 with a test substance; and assaying an action of the test substance on the phospholipase A_2, to determine inhibition of the phospholipase A_2.

16 (Original). The method according to claim 15, wherein the action of the test substance is assayed by carrying out an enzymatic reaction in a reaction system comprising the phospholipase A_2, a substrate for the phospholipase A_2, and the test substance, and assaying an inhibitory action for the enzymatic activity of the phospholipase A_2.

17 (Original). The method according to claim 16, wherein the substrate is a glycerophospholipid, and the enzymatic activity is an activity for hydrolyzing an ester bond at 2-position of the glycerophophoslipid.

18 (Currently Amended). A method for inhibiting a phospholipase A_2 in human, comprising administering a test substance to a human individual who is a patient with an inflammatory dermal disease, wherein the test substance is determined to be a substance capable of inhibiting the

phospholipase A_2, by assaying an action of the test substance on the phospholipase A_2 comprising ~~the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3~~ the polypeptide of claim 1.

19 (Currently Amended). A method of selling a test substance or a composition containing the test substance as a therapeutic agent for an inflammatory dermal disease, wherein the test substance is determined to be a substance capable of inhibiting a phospholipase A_2, by assaying an action of the test substance on the phospholipase A_2 comprising ~~the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3~~ the polypeptide of claim 1.

20 (Currently Amended). A method for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising mixing a test substance with a carrier, wherein the test substance is determined to be a substance capable of inhibiting the phospholipase A_2 by assaying an action of the test substance on the phospholipase A_2 comprising ~~the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3~~ the polypeptide of claim 1.

21 (Cancelled)

22 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~ claim 15, wherein the inflammatory dermal disease is a chronic intractable dermal disease.

23 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~ claim 15, wherein the inflammatory dermal disease is psoriasis.

24 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~ claim 15, wherein the test substance is a compound which has not been known as an inhibitor for the phospholipase A_2.

25 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising a compound capable of inhibiting a phospholipase A_2 comprising the polypeptide of ~~any one claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 as an active ingredient.

26 (Currently Amended). A method for treating an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting a phospholipase A_2 comprising the polypeptide of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

27 (Currently Amended). An examination method for psoriasis, characterized by assaying an expression level of a gene encoding ~~the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3~~ the polypeptide of claim 1 for a biological sample collected from a human or non-human animal individual.

28 (Original). The examination method according to claim 27, wherein the expression level is assayed using a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or a complement thereof as a probe or primer.

29 (Original). The examination method according to claim 28, wherein the probe or primer is a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a complement thereof.

30 (Currently Amended). The examination method according to claim 27, wherein the expression level is assayed using an antibody capable of recognizing ~~the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3~~ said polypeptide.